

Implementation of FBI Background Checks Delayed

The Office of EMS is working with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) executive leadership and the Virginia State Police to obtain the necessary equipment, supplies and develop policies and procedures for the implementation of FBI background checks for each person who, on or after July 1, 2013, applies to be a volunteer with or employee of an EMS agency. Because these tasks are not complete, there will be a delay in the enactment of these new requirements in the law (§32.1-111.5).

Once the Office of EMS can implement the new requirements in the law each person who applies to be a volunteer with or employee of an EMS agency will be required to submit fingerprints and provide personal descriptive information (race, height, weight, eye color, hair color, etc.) to be forwarded by the Office of EMS through the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) of the Virginia State Police to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), for the purpose of conducting a state and national criminal history check.

There is no change in the background investigation policy at this time. The law does not require EMS agencies to submit fingerprints and personal descriptive information to the Office of EMS. EMS agencies may obtain state and national criminal history checks through other established processes, however, the cost to conduct these checks will not be covered by the state. ***EMS Agencies should not change their practice until further notice. A notification will be generated by the Office of EMS when everything is in place to begin the new background check process.***

If there are any questions pertaining to an individual's eligibility for affiliation with a licensed EMS agency and/or their eligibility for EMS certification, please contact Mr. Michael Berg, Regulation and Compliance Manager, VA Office of EMS at 1-800-523-6019 or 804-888-9131 or by Email at Michael.Berg@vdh.virginia.gov.